

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace [0003] with the following paragraph:

[0003] There are various systems and methods of stiffening composite structures. For example, in an aircraft context, hat and blade stiffeners are sometimes utilized. A blade stiffener is a thin element, often T-shaped in cross-section, that is affixed to a structure. ~~The upper portion of the T-shape, is affixed to the structure.~~ ~~The leg of the T-shape forms~~^{ing} the blade and extends^{ing} outward away from the structure, the stiffener extending along the length of the structure. The blade increases the moment of inertia of the entire cross-section to increase stiffness. Likewise, a hat stiffener has a three-dimensional cross-section that is typically symmetrical. The hat cross-section usually has a center portion from which two legs depend and terminate in feet. The hat stiffener may be attached to the structure at either the feet or the center portion. A problem with hat and blade stiffeners is that they can have special peel problems at their ends. Furthermore, when utilizing hat and blade stiffeners for strength in perpendicular directions, it becomes very expensive from a manufacturing standpoint because hat and blade stiffeners do not lend themselves well to criss-cross patterns.

Please replace [0017] with the following paragraph:

[0017] As shown in FIG. 1, panel 11 comprises a skin 13 and an undulating, or corrugated, laminate stiffener 15 bonded to inner surface 17 of skin 13. Skin 13 is preferably a composite laminate requiring stiffening for flexural loading, though skin 13 may be formed from other rigid materials, for example, aluminum. While skin 13 is shown as generally flat, skin 13 may also be curved around lines parallel to corrugated ribs 18 of stiffener 15. Stiffener 15 is shown as having four ribs 18, though stiffener 15 may have more or less ribs 18. Stiffener 15 is bonded to surface 17 at its ends 19, 21 and at the portions 23 of ribs 18 that are immediately adjacent surface 17 of skin 13. Stiffener 15 provides skin 13 with stiffening against bending around lines perpendicular to ribs 18.